UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,617	11/12/2003	Shinya Wada	SCEP 20.732 (100809-00225	5866

26304	7590	05/24/2006

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2167	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/706,617	WADA, SHINYA
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tarik C. Koc	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE **3** MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 November 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-22 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aoki et al. (U.S. 6,253,218) (hereinafter Aoki).

Regarding claim 1, Aoki discloses a file processing apparatus in figures 1, 67, and 68,

including:

an attribute input unit which acquires a value of an attribute for at least one file in order

to represent a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file by using a concept

of weight (element 102, column 9 lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is a

value assigned to a file or directory based on an assigned attribute of that file or folder,

such as a date value. Each data model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the equivalent

of a file);

a comparison processing unit which compares the value of an attribute with a reference

value (element 103, column 9, lines 6-10; arrangement by attributes disclosed in these

lines necessarily implies a comparison between values of attributes with at least each

other, which meets the limitation comparing the value of an attribute with a reference value);

a position determining unit which sets, based on a result obtained from said comparison processing unit, a relative display position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight (element 106; as disclosed in column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and

a display processing unit which visually represents the value of the attribute in terms of whether the weight is heavy or light, by displaying the object at the display position on a screen set by said position determining unit (element 107, column 9, lines 22-24).

Regarding claim 5, A file processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of an attribute for a plurality of files and said comparison processing unit classifies the plurality of files into a plurality of groups according to the respective values of the attribute, and wherein said display processing unit displays the object in an appearance corresponding to the respective groups (Figure 2, column 9, line 20; see also column 9, lines 37-41).

Regarding claim 6, A file processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of an attribute for a plurality of files (element 102,

column 9 lines 2-3), said comparison processing unit classifies the plurality of files into a

plurality of classes and sequentially compares the values of an attribute for each class

(Figure 2, column 9, line 20; see also column 9, lines 37-41 attributes are first by a

group and arranged in order of date), wherein, after relative display positions are

temporarily determined respectively as positions that initially display objects for the

plurality of files, said position determining unit sequentially updates the relative display

positions in a manner such that comparison results for each class are reflected for each

class, and wherein said display processing unit varies the display of the objects

according to said updating after the plurality of files are displayed at the temporally

determined relative display positions (Figure 67-68, column 26, lines 33-35; These

portions of Aoki detail the initial display of the equivalent of files, and then movement of

the representations of files in accordance with a file attribute, in this case, a retrieval flag

which is an attribute of each file, which accordingly meets the limitations varying the

display of the objects according to said updating afte rthe plurality of files are displayed

at the temporally determined relative display positions).

Regarding claim 9, a file processing apparatus according to claim 1, further including:

an instruction receiving unit which receive an instruction from a user intending to

change the display position of the object; and an effect generator which causes, based

on the instruction, said position determining unit and said display processing unit to

process a change in any of position, shape and appearance of the object (column 33,

lines 14-35; Aoki discloses changing attributes that govern the weights of displayed

files, which will change the positions of objects that are displayed, the subsequent

display of the objects in a different order means that Aoki's invention further includes a means to effect these changes in accordance with the said position determining unit and said display processing unit).

Regarding claim 10, Aoki discloses a method of processing files, including: setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight (column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight);

and representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen (column 9 lines 22-24).

Regarding claim 14, Aoki discloses a method of processing files, including: acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight (column 9 lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is a value assigned to a file or directory based on an assigned attribute of that file or folder, such as a date value. Each data model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the equivalent of a file); setting a

temporary sequence for the plurality of files; determining, based on the temporary

sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined object that symbolically

represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light (column 9,

lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106.

Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative

position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight, the display of

which by element 107, column 9, lines 22-24 also meets the limitation symbolically

representing the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light); displaying

an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary display position on a

screen; comparing the values of a predetermined attribute between adjacent files in the

temporary sequence; updating the display position based on a comparison result

obtained from said comparing; and representing visually the weight thereof by varying

display contents according to said updating (Figure 67-68, column 26, lines 33-35;

These portions of Aoki detail the initial display of the equivalent of files, and then

movement of the representations of files in accordance with a file attribute, in this case,

a retrieval flag which is an attribute of each file, which accordingly meets the limitations

displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary display

position on a screen; comparing the values of a predetermined attribute between

adjacent files in the temporary sequence; updating the display position based on a

comparison result obtained from said comparing; and representing visually the weight

thereof by varying display contents according to said updating).

Regarding claim 16, Aoki discloses a method of processing files according to claim 10, further including: acquiring an instruction from a user who intends to cause a display position of the object to be changed; and changing at least one of position, shape and appearance of the object, based on the instruction (column 33, lines 14-35; Aoki discloses changing attributes that govern the weights of displayed files, which will change the positions of objects that are displayed).

Regarding claim 17, Aoki discloses a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of: setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight (column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen (column 9, lines 22-24).

Regarding claim 19, Aoki discloses a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of: acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight (column 9 lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is

a value assigned to a file or directory based on an assigned attribute of that file or

folder, such as a date value. Each data model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the

equivalent of a file); setting a temporary sequence for the plurality of files determining,

based on the temporary sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined

object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is

heavy or light (column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being

placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation

of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the

weight, the display of which by element 107, column 9, lines 22-24 also meets the

limitation symbolically representing the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is

heavy or light); displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the

temporary display position on a screen; comparing the values of a predetermined

attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence; updating the display

position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and representing

visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating

(Figure 67-68, column 26, lines 33-35; These portions of Aoki detail the initial display of

the equivalent of files, and then movement of the representations of files in accordance

with a file attribute, in this case, a retrieval flag which is an attribute of each file, which

accordingly meets the limitations displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality

of files, at the temporary display position on a screen; comparing the values of a

predetermined attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence; updating the

display position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and

representing visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating).

Regarding claim 20, Aoki discloses a computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of: setting a relative display position of a predetermined object that symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file, in order to represent the value of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight (column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and representing visually the weight by displaying the object at the relative display position on a screen (column 9, lines 22-24).

Regarding claim 22, Aoki discloses a computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of: acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of files, in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute for intended files by using a concept of weight; setting a temporary sequence for the plurality of files (column 9, lines 6-10; items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); determining, based on

the temporary sequence, a temporary display position of a predetermined object that

symbolically represents the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light

(column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by

element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a

relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight, the

display of which by element 107, column 9, lines 22-24 also meets the limitation

symbolically representing the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or

light); displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the temporary

display position on a screen; comparing the values of a predetermined attribute

between adjacent files in the temporary sequence; updating the display position based

on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and representing visually the

weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating (Figure 67-68,

column 26, lines 33-35; These portions of Aoki detail the initial display of the equivalent

of files, and then movement of the representations of files in accordance with a file

attribute, in this case, a retrieval flag which is an attribute of each file, which accordingly

meets the limitations displaying an object that corresponds to the plurality of files, at the

temporary display position on a screen; comparing the values of a predetermined

attribute between adjacent files in the temporary sequence; updating the display

position based on a comparison result obtained from said comparing; and representing

visually the weight thereof by varying display contents according to said updating).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action: ·

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki et

al. (U.S. 6,253,218) as applied to the rejection of claim 1, in view of Vaananen et al.

(U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0175896).

Regarding claim 2, Aoki discloses does not explicitly disclose a file processing

apparatus according to claim 1, further including

an inclination detector which detects inclination of a predetermined region in the file

processing apparatus operated by a user,

wherein according to the inclination detected by said inclination detector said position

determining unit varies the relative display position.

In the same field of endeavor (ease of information retrieval) Vaananen discloses

an inclination detector which detects inclination of a predetermined region in the file

processing apparatus operated by a user (element 50, paragraph 0078),

wherein according to the inclination detected by said inclination detector said position determining unit varies the relative display position (paragraph 0028 discloses moving the objects on the screen relative to a viewer).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Vaananen's teachings of an inclination detector with Aoki's teachings of a file processing apparatus to obtain a file processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and varies a relative display position, to obtain an easier to use user interface. Vaananen suggests in paragraph 0009 a need for a less "slow and awkward" method of data browsing. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 11, Aoki does not explicitly disclose a method of processing files according to claim 10, further including: detecting inclination of a predetermined apparatus operated by a user; and varying the relative display positions according to the inclination.

In the same field of endeavor (ease of information retrieval) Vaananen discloses detecting inclination of a predetermined apparatus operated by a user; and varying the relative display positions according to the inclination (element 50, paragraph 0078).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have incorporated Vaananen's teachings of inclination

detection with Aoki's teachings of a method of processing files to obtain a file

processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and varies a

relative display position, to obtain an easier to use user interface. Vaananen suggests

in paragraph 0009 a need for a less "slow and awkward" method of data browsing. Aoki

suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a

straightforward manner.

6.   Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being

obvious over Aoki et al. (U.S. 6,253,218) as applied to the rejection of claim 1, in view of

Rosenzweig et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/075322).

Regarding claim 3, A file processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said attribute input unit acquires values of the attribute for a plurality of files

(element 102, column 9 lines 2-3),

said comparison processing unit sets a value of an attribute for at least one of the

plurality of files to the reference value (element 103, column 9, lines 6-10; arrangement

by attributes disclosed in these lines necessarily implies a comparison between values

of attributes with at least each other. All elements in a sorted list necessarily have been

compared indirectly or directly to any given element in that list; therefore elements

arranged by dates as in Figure 2 of Aoki have all been compared to the first or any other

element as a reference element.),

said position determining unit sets relative display positions of a plurality of objects

corresponding to the plurality of files, respectively (Figure 2, column 9, line 19, elements

are sorted by the date of creation), and

Aoki does not explicitly disclose wherein said display processing unit displays the

plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the

comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement

of the weights.

In the same field of endeavor (graphical user interfaces adapted for ease of use)

Rosenzweig teaches the use of a metaphor in a user interface to indicate the magnitude

of a file attribute, which is the equivalent of weight. This meets the limitation wherein

said display processing unit displays the plurality of files at the respective display

positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another

object representative of the measurement of the weights (Figures 8-9, paragraph 0031

and 0032).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have incorporated Rosenzweig's teachings of visually

representing the comparison of weights of files via another object representative of the

measurement of the weights with Aoki's teachings of a file processing apparatus to

obtain a file processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and

visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object

representative of the measurement of the weights to obtain an easier to use user

interface.   Rosenzweig suggests in paragraph 0006 a need for a more natural feeling

user interface for browsing files. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able

to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 4, A file processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said

comparison processing unit sets, as the reference value, a size of a storage area that

stores at least one file, said position determining unit sets a relative display position of

an object indicative of the storage area according to the size of the storage area, and

wherein said display processing unit visually expresses the comparison of data size

between the at least one file and the storage area via the another object (element 103,

column 9, lines 6-10; arrangement by attributes disclosed in these lines necessarily

implies a comparison between values of attributes with at least each other. All elements

in a sorted list necessarily have been compared indirectly or directly to any given

element in that list; therefore elements arranged by dates as in Figure 2 of Aoki have all

been compared to the first or any other element as a reference element. In the same

lines Aoki further discloses that the attribute that the documents are arranged by can be

file size).

Regarding claim 12, Aoki discloses a method of processing files, including: acquiring

values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of intended files in order to represent

the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight (column 9

lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is a value assigned to a file or directory

based on an assigned attribute of that file or folder, such as a date value. Each data

model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the equivalent of a file);

setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of a predetermined

object that represents symbolically the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is

heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute (column 9, lines 6-10;

items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging

items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a

predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and displaying the

objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions on a screen (column 9,

lines 22-24), and expressing visually comparison of the weights of the objects via

another object that symbolizes weight measurement.

Aoki does not explicitly disclose wherein displaying objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights.

In the same field of endeavor (graphical user interfaces adapted for ease of use) Rosenzweig teaches the use of a metaphor in a user interface to indicate the magnitude of a file attribute, which is the equivalent of weight. This meets the limitation displaying the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights (Figures 8-9, paragraph 0031 and 0032).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Rosenzweig's teachings of visually representing the comparison of weights of files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights with Aoki's teachings of a method of file processing to obtain a file processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights to obtain an easier to use user interface. Rosenzweig suggests in paragraph 0006 a need for a more natural feeling user interface for browsing files. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 13, Aoki discloses a method of processing files according to claim 12,

wherein said acquiring further acquires a size of a storage area that stores at least one

file, and said setting sets the relative display position of at least one object

corresponding to the at least one file, based on a comparison result obtained by

comparing a data size between the at least one object and the storage area, and

wherein said displaying and expressing represents visually the comparison result via

the another object (column 9, lines 6-10; arrangement by attributes disclosed in these

lines necessarily implies a comparison between values of attributes with at least each

other. All elements in a sorted list necessarily have been compared indirectly or directly

to any given element in that list; therefore elements arranged by dates as in Figure 2 of

Aoki have all been compared to the first or any other element as a reference element.

In the same lines Aoki further discloses that the attribute that the documents are

arranged by can be file size).

Regarding claim 18, Aoki discloses a program executable by a computer, the program

including the functions of: acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of

intended files in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by

using a concept of weight (column 9 lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is

a value assigned to a file or directory based on an assigned attribute of that file or

folder, such as a date value. Each data model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the

equivalent of a file); setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of

a predetermined object representing symbolically the files in terms of whether the

weight thereof is heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute

(column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by

element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a

relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and

displaying on a screen the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display

positions (column 9, lines 22-24),

Aoki does not explicitly disclose wherein displaying objects of the plurality of files at the

respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the

files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights.

In the same field of endeavor (graphical user interfaces adapted for ease of use)

Rosenzweig teaches the use of a metaphor in a user interface to indicate the magnitude

of a file attribute, which is the equivalent of weight. This meets the limitation displaying

the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually

represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of

the measurement of the weights (Figures 8-9, paragraph 0031 and 0032).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have incorporated Rosenzweig's teachings of visually

representing the comparison of weights of files via another object representative of the

measurement of the weights with Aoki's teachings of a method of file processing to

obtain a file processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights to obtain an easier to use user interface. Rosenzweig suggests in paragraph 0006 a need for a more natural feeling user interface for browsing files. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 21, Aoki discloses a computer-readable recording medium which stores a program executable by a computer, the program including the functions of: acquiring values of a predetermined attribute for a plurality of intended files in order to represent the values of a predetermined attribute therefor by using a concept of weight (column 9 lines 2-3; weight as interpreted by the examiner is a value assigned to a file or directory based on an assigned attribute of that file or folder, such as a date value. Each data model 203 as disclosed in lines 45-40 is the equivalent of a file); setting, for each of the plurality of files, a relative display position of a predetermined object representing symbolically the files in terms of whether the weight thereof is heavy or light, based on the values of a predetermined attribute (column 9, lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106. Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight); and displaying on a screen the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions (column 9, lines 22-24),

Aoki does not explicitly disclose wherein displaying objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights.

In the same field of endeavor (graphical user interfaces adapted for ease of use) Rosenzweig teaches the use of a metaphor in a user interface to indicate the magnitude of a file attribute, which is the equivalent of weight. This meets the limitation displaying the objects of the plurality of files at the respective display positions and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights (Figures 8-9, paragraph 0031 and 0032).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Rosenzweig's teachings of visually representing the comparison of weights of files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights with Aoki's teachings of a method of file processing to obtain a file processing apparatus that arranges files by their associated weights and visually represents the comparison of weights of the files via another object representative of the measurement of the weights to obtain an easier to use user interface. Rosenzweig suggests in paragraph 0006 a need for a more natural feeling user interface for browsing files. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

7.   Claims 7, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over

Aoki et al. (U.S. 6,253,218) as applied to the rejection of claim 1, in view of Adler et al.

(U.S. 6,340,957).

Regarding claim 7, A file processing apparatus according to claim 5, Aoki discloses said

position determining unit updates the relative display position according to the result

obtained from said comparison processing unit (element 106; as disclosed in column 9,

lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106.

Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative

position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight);

Aoki does not explicitly disclose further including a vibration detector which detects a

swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by

a user, wherein said comparison processing unit performs an action when the motion is

detected. In the same field of endeavor (ease of use of graphical user interfaces) Adler

teaches performing an action in response to a swaying motion at a predetermined

region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user (column 12, lines 15-17).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have incorporated Adler's teachings of a vibration

detector for a swaying motion with Aoki's teachings of updates to relative display

positions according to the result obtained from said comparison processing unit to

obtain the claimed invention. Adler suggests a need for intuitive interaction with small

computers in column 1, lines 14-15. . Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be

able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 8, A file processing apparatus according to claim 6, Aoki discloses said

position determining unit updates the relative display position according to the result

obtained from said comparison processing unit (element 106; as disclosed in column 9,

lines 6-10 items are arranged by their attributes before being placed by element 106.

Arranging items in a based on an attribute meets the limitation of setting a relative

position of a predetermined object that represents symbolically the weight);

Aoki does not explicitly disclose further including a vibration detector which detects a

swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by

a user, wherein said comparison processing unit performs an action when the motion is

detected. In the same field of endeavor (ease of use of graphical user interfaces) Adler

teaches performing an action in response to a swaying motion at a predetermined

region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user (column 12, lines 15-17).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Adler's teachings of a vibration detector for a swaying motion with Aoki's teachings of updates to relative display positions according to the result obtained from said comparison processing unit to obtain the claimed invention. Adler suggests a need for intuitive interaction with small computers in column 1, lines 14-15. Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Regarding claim 15, Aoki does not explicitly disclose processing files according to claim 14, further including: detecting a swaying motion of a predetermined apparatus operated by a user; performing said comparing when the swaying motion is detected in said detecting; updating a relative display position of the object according to the comparison result.

Aoki does not explicitly disclose further including a predetermined apparatus which detects a swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user, wherein said comparison processing unit performs an action when the motion is detected. In the same field of endeavor (ease of use of graphical user interfaces) Adler teaches performing an action in response to a swaying motion at a predetermined region of the file processing apparatus operated by a user (column 12, lines 15-17).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Adler's teachings of a vibration detector for a swaying motion with Aoki's teachings of updates to relative display positions according to the result obtained from said comparison processing unit to obtain the claimed invention. Adler suggests a need for intuitive interaction with small computers in column 1, lines 14-15. . Aoki suggests in column 2, lines 2-4 a need to be able to access and manage data in a straightforward manner.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tarik C. Koc whose telephone number is 571-272-6725. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.
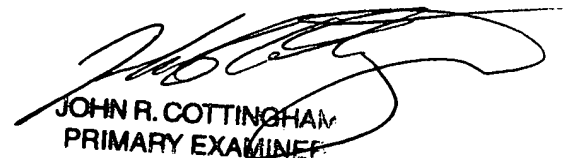
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571)272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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5/18/2006

JOHN R. COTTINGHAM
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